

At a Glance

Federal Land Management Legislation

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on December 14, 2023

On December 14, 2023, three bills aimed at changing the management of federal land were ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This comprehensive document provides estimates for those three bills.

- All three bills would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply to all of the bills.
- All three bills would affect spending subject to appropriation.
- None of the bills would affect revenues.
- S. 3033 would increase net direct and on-budget deficits by an insignificant amount in the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035. S. 3036 and S. 3045 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035.
- None of the bills would impose intergovernmental or private-sector mandates.

Details of the estimated costs of each bill are discussed in the text.

Bill	Net Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit Over the 2024-2034 Period (Millions of Dollars)	Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation Over the 2024-2029 Period (Outlays, Millions of Dollars)	Mandate Effects?
S. 3033	*	3	No
S. 3036	-3	*	No
S. 3045	*	*	No

* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.

Summary

On December 14, 2023, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered reported three bills aimed at changing the management of certain parcels of federal land.

S. 3033, Pecos Watershed Protection Act

S. 3033 would withdraw roughly 160,000 acres of federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of New Mexico from mining, mineral and geothermal leasing, and other third-party ownership or possession. The withdrawal would be subject to valid and existing rights.

S. 3033 also would designate approximately 12,000 acres of land that is currently managed by the Forest Service as a wilderness area.

S. 3036, Mountain View Corridor Completion Act

S. 3036 would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to convey, at fair market value, approximately 200 acres of land in Camp Williams, Utah, to the state of Utah to facilitate the construction of the Mountain View Corridor freeway.

S. 3045, a bill to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes

S. 3045 would transfer two parcels of land between California's Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest. A 160-acre parcel currently in the national forest would be transferred to the national park and a nearby 170-acre parcel currently in the national park would be transferred to the national forest.

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that all three bills will be enacted in the middle of fiscal year 2024. Estimated outlays are based on historical patterns for similar projects and programs.

The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Direct Spending

Using information from the agencies that currently manage the affected areas, CBO estimates that enacting the bills would have the following effects on direct spending:

- **S. 3033** would decrease offsetting receipts (which are recorded as reductions in direct spending) because designating the land as a wilderness area would limit some activities, such as grazing, that currently generate receipts to the federal government. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that the increase in direct spending would be less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2034 period.

- **S. 3036** would increase offsetting receipts because the bill would require Utah to pay fair market value to acquire the federal land. Using information on land values for similar tracts near Camp Williams, and assuming that the transfer happens in 2024, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would decrease direct spending by \$3 million in 2024.
- **S. 3045** could affect direct spending. Transferring the land would shift administrative jurisdiction over each parcel between the Forest Service and the National Park Service. Activities that could generate receipts on the current Forest Service parcel would not be allowed once it was transferred to the national park. However, the current national park parcel could be used for those activities once it was transferred to the Forest Service. Because the amount of land administered by each agency would remain roughly the same, any potential change in direct spending would roughly offset. CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending would be negligible.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

CBO's estimates of outlays for programs funded by appropriations are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs; any spending under the bills would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Following alterations to the management of federal land, agencies must revise maps and boundaries to reflect changes made to the land's ownership or administration. Based on information from the managing agencies and costs associated with similar projects, CBO estimates that implementing the bills would have the following effects on spending subject to appropriation:

- **S. 3033** would cost \$3 million over the 2024-2029 period mostly for the Forest Service to manage the newly designated wilderness area; the cost to revise maps and boundaries would not be significant.
- **S. 3036** would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2029 period for BLM to appraise the 200 acres designated to be conveyed and to revise maps and boundaries.
- **S. 3045** would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2029 period for the Forest Service and National Park Service to revise maps and boundaries.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that enacting S. 3033 would increase direct spending by an insignificant amount, that enacting S. 3045 would have a negligible effect on direct spending, and that enacting S. 3036 would decrease direct spending by \$3 million over the 2024-2034 period. The net change in outlays for S. 3036 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.
CBO’s Estimate of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Effects of S. 3036, the Mountain View Corridor Completion Act, as Ordered Reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on December 14, 2023

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2024- 2029	2024- 2034
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034		
	Net Decrease in the Deficit												
Pay-As-You-Go Effect	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3	-3

Increase in Long-Term Net Direct Spending and Deficits

CBO estimates that enacting S. 3033 would increase net direct spending and on-budget deficits by an insignificant amount in the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 3036 and S. 3045 would not increase net direct spending or deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035.

Mandates

CBO has determined that none of the bills contain intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

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